

Bowral Garden Club Inc.

(Established in 1963)

Affiliated with Garden Clubs of Australia Inc

ADDRESS: PO BOX 910, BOWRAL NSW 2576

Patrons: Chris & Charlotte Webb OAM

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2013



Friendship through Gardening

The Club wins 'Best Float' Trophy

For the third time in four years, the Bowral Garden Club won the 'Best Float' trophy at the Tulip Time parade. Eric Paananen's beautifully constructed settler's cottage gave us the edge over the other entries. And 'Gidget', the Shetland pony, was the icing on the cake. Seventeen members (including Melissa Lee, Kathy Watson's granddaughter who led the pony)—Bob and Noelene Bailey, Pamela Cornett, Wendy Gamble, Pat Keen, Michael Launder, Catherine Mah, Susan-May Notley, Michael and Pat O'Boyle, Eric and Phyllis Paananen, Clive and Meg Probyn, Lorraine Richardson and Kathy Watson—walked behind the float pulled by the historic Ferguson tractor.



'Gidget' with her owner, Melissa Lee, and Kathy Watson (photos Brian Rapsey)

It was so blustery on the afternoon of Saturday 28 September that we were worried the float would be damaged by the wind.



The 1863 settler's cottage
(designed and constructed by Eric Paananen)

To our amusement, Gidget left her own deposit on Bong Bong Street. Phyllis grabbed the shovel, conveniently placed on the back of the float. But the following vehicle, the old black hearse, had already flattened the offending pile—and since there were several horses close behind we could be forgiven for thinking that no one would penalise us for Gidget's small indiscretion!

And finally a message from Muriel Stuart who sent the following comments on hearing of the Club's success:

"Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: *'Enthusiasm is one of the most powerful engines of success. When you do a thing, do it with all your might. Put your whole soul into it. Stamp it with your own personality. Be active, be energetic, be enthusiastic, and faithful, and you will accomplish your object. Nothing great was ever achieved without ENTHUSIASM.'*

And that is the secret ingredient of the spirit of our Garden Club. It is such a privilege to belong to it. Muriel"

What's on in October

6-7 October: Many local gardens open: see page 6.

7 October (Monday): Public Holiday

12-13 October (Saturday-Sunday) 9.30am to 4.30pm
Robertson Open Gardens (8 beautiful gardens) \$5 per garden or \$20 for all: proceeds to go to local charities.

14 October (Monday) 1.30pm: Club meeting at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral.
Guest speaker: Sandra Ross: *Inspirations of spring.*



Sandra Ross

21 October (Monday) 10.30am: Committee meeting – at 158 Oxley Drive, Mittagong.

26 October (Saturday): from 8 am - noon: The Bowral Garden Club Plant Stall in Corbett Plaza, Bowral. This is our major fundraiser—please support us.

26-27 October (Saturday-Sunday) 9.30am to 4.30pm
Bundanoon Garden Ramble. Tickets and garden descriptions are available on the day from the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. \$5 per garden or \$20 all gardens.

28 October (Monday) 10.30am: Garden visit to 'Invergowrie', Exeter.

What's on in November

2 November (Saturday) from 8am: The Great Tulip Bulb Dig Up at Corbett Gardens – all you need is a trowel. Pre-bagged tulip bulbs \$25 per bag; dig your own \$15 per bag.

4 November (Monday): 1.30pm: Club meeting at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley Street, Bowral. Guest speaker: Charlotte Webb: *Claude Crowe and the Berrima Bridge Nursery*.

11 November (Monday): Coach trip to National Arboretum, Canberra.

25 November (Monday): 3.30pm to 6pm: Garden Party to celebrate the Club's Golden Anniversary at Janice Scott's home: 15 Kimberley Drive, Bowral.



*Eric Paananen and Meg Probyn holding the trophy
(photo Pat Keen)*

Corbett Gardens

The tourists could not have been more delighted when they flocked to Corbett Gardens during the Tulip Time celebrations. The Council horticulturists produced an amazing display of flowers despite the spring winds and lack of rain. On the afternoon of Sunday 29 September, it was a most pleasurable experience to walk round the beds of exquisite flowers, listen to the band and enjoy the spring sunshine. It seemed that Bowral could not have looked more lovely and welcoming. Congratulations are due to the many gardeners who have worked so hard and produced the beautiful colourful beds of tulips.



Corbett Gardens bathed in sunlight (photo M. Probyn)

More photos from the Parade



Catherine Mah (photos Carolyn Dwyer)



*Michael O'Boyle and Lorraine Richardson in Bong Bong Street
(photo Carolyn Dwyer)*



Wendy Gamble, Phyllis Paananen, Meg Probyn, Kathy Watson, Pat Keen, Lorraine Richardson, Pamela Cornett, Patricia O'Boyle, Noelene Bailey, Catherine Mah and Melissa Lee holding on to Gidget (photo B. Rapsey)



Ron Stahl driving his historic Ferguson tractor



The float being prepared on Friday Morning



Melissa leading Gidget (photos above Carolyn Dwyer)



Phyllis Paananen, Michael O'Boyle, Eric Paananen, Michael Launders, Meg Probyn, Veronica Launders, Susan-May Notley, Patricia O'Boyle, Clive Probyn (photos Pat Keen)



Pat Keen posing in the driving seat while Susan-May Notley (behind) arranges the bunting on the Ferguson tractor



Meg Probyn, Lorraine Richardson, Pamela Cornett, Pat Keen, Catherine Mah, Patricia O'Boyle and Phyllis Paananen (photo Brian Rapsey)



Clive Probyn (photo Brian Rapsey)

Garden Tips

Prepare for summer watering: Now is the time to check over your watering systems, if you are lucky enough to have one, or to replace an old hose with one of those new ones, which unwind themselves and never tangle!

Prune and train: When the spring flowering trees and shrubs have finished flowering, prune them into shape. This applies to *callistemon*, *forsythia*, *boronia*, *choisya*, *ceanothus*, *diosma*, *philadelphus*, *mint bush* and *spiraea*—all benefit from a spring haircut. Clip the hedges to keep them compact. Train climbing plants by tying up the branches as they try to escape from your control.

Bulbs: Most of the daffodils and tulips have finished flowering and even the bluebells are beginning to die back. Continue watering and don't remove the foliage but let it die down completely—this may take two or three weeks. At that point the bulbs can be lifted, the withered tops removed and stored in a cool, dry, airy place until the following planting season. We are lucky in the Southern Highlands because the climate allows us to leave most bulbs in the ground, though tulips, hyacinths and giant alliums may prefer to be lifted if you live in the colder areas of Bowral and Moss Vale.

Wisteria: Despite the fact that a wisteria plant once pulled down our old pergola in Melbourne, I still have a great fondness for wisterias. The abundant scented sprays are quintessentially the sign that spring has really sprung. To avoid damage to your house, ensure that the plant is properly pruned and trained on sturdy supports were you are able to restrict it to the area where you want it to grow. It likes a sunny position, but the roots need to be kept moist, so humus-rich, well-drained soil is perfect for your plant. The genus was named by the English botanist Thomas Nuttall in honour of Caspar Wistar (1761-1818), a professor of anatomy at the University of Pennsylvania. It remains a mystery why the spelling of his last name was changed.

Wisterias can be propagated from cuttings or seed, or by layering or grafting. Did you know that the Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*), the most popular species in Australia, differs from the Japanese wisteria (*W. floribunda*) by the fact that the Chinese twines by turning to the left in an anti-clockwise fashion, whereas the Japanese twines to the right (clockwise)? Wisterias are easy to grow and once established they don't require much water—but they do require pruning to avoid them getting out of control.

Propagate: So many plants are easy to propagate and none easier than the daisy. Try taking some cuttings now and pop them into some potting mix. Make sure you don't forget to water them.

Pots: If your plants look as though they are bursting out of their pots, repot them now. Top-up existing pots with fresh potting mix.

Fertilise: Before the hotter weather commences, fertilise your garden and mulch everywhere with compost, cane straw or your favourite mulch.

Lawns: Weed, water and fertilise your lawn. Start mowing regularly but remember not to cut the grass too closely to allow it to survive the warmer days.

Dahlia: Prepare rich soil for dahlia-planting next month.

From the Patch:

Green Beans *Phaseolus vulgaris*

Nothing tells you spring has arrived more than that you are able to go outside and plant your first crop of green beans, either dwarf French or climbing. An incredibly easy, flavoursome and rewarding crop to grow, even a small 3m long row of dwarf beans will produce a staggering 10kg of crop. Beans should be planted in a sunny sheltered position only once the threat of frosts has passed. Dig your soil deeply and sow the seeds in moistened soil 50mm deep, which has been enriched with some well-rotted cow manure or blood and bone. Sow the beans in double rows approximately 100mm apart—this will help the plants to support one another. As they are legumes and fix atmospheric nitrogen they do benefit from a side application of lime or dolomite if your soil is acidic. Water regularly once the seeds have germinated.

Climbing beans are incredibly prolific bearers and only a few seeds will produce a huge crop. Obviously you do need to provide a frame or trellis for them to grow on. Bean trellises can be an art form in their own right with many people creating quite exotic woven willow and tee-pee like arrangements.

Once the crop has begun to flower apply fertilizer every two weeks to encourage healthy productive plants. For novice gardeners this is the crop for you, they really do require very little care and as long as you keep picking they will keep producing.

Pest and Diseases

There are few pest and diseases problems apart from red spider mite, which is easily treated with pest oil. If by some chance they are affected by fungal rust you can spray, but simply picking off affected leaves can be a safer and easier option.

If the weather is quite humid or you are watering overhead, your beans may be infected by powdery mildew. To treat this, simply stop overhead watering and spray with a mixture of milk, water and bicarb soda.

Like all vegetables take measures to control snails and slugs, which love green bean seedlings.

Bean Trivia: The green bean originated in the hot areas of the Americas, India and China. The Conquistador introduced it to France about 1597. The bean extended into the eastern Mediterranean and by the seventeenth century was harvested everywhere in Italy, Greece, and Turkey. For a long time beans were uncommon and costly, however they became widespread in the 19th century. The first country to put green beans on their menus was France.

Beans are low in calories and filled with vitamins A, C, K, B1, B2, B3 and B6, Beans also contain healthy amounts of minerals like iron, magnesium, manganese, calcium and potassium, which are essential for body metabolism.

Cultivars:

Dwarf Beans

- **Brown Beauty** produces flat beans that crop over a long period.
- **Gourmet's Delight** is a real favourite, loved for its sweet, tender flavour.
- **Hawkesbury Wonder** is an older variety that copes well with tough conditions.

- **Stringless Pioneer**, with its disease resistance, is a good choice for humid areas.
- **Snapbean Stringless**, as you'd guess from its name, has crisp pods that 'snap' when they're bent.
- **Bountiful Butter** has pale yellow pods and a creamy flavour.
- **Sex Without Strings** is a highly productive yellow podded stringless variety with excellent flavour
- **Violet Queen** is a highly productive purple podded variety with attractive purple flowers and excellent flavour

Climbing Beans

- Stringless Blue Lake is the traditional favourite. Its round, fleshy pods soak up maximum goodness from the sun.
- Purple King will amaze your friends with its purple pods that turn green when they're cooked.

A Garden Thought

"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments."

Janet Kilburn Phillips

Chris Webb (Garden experimenter)

Muriel's Musings

Have you noticed how some months of the year are more expensive than others? Throughout our married years April was one of those—house and contents insurance, car registration and insurance and four family birthdays.

This year August has taken the cake as far as my 'outgoings' are concerned, as I shelled out for rates, electricity, telephone, water rates and an unexpected taxi dash to the Vets with the voluptuous black long-haired Sheba, who without warning, upchucked a most impressive fur ball next to her bowl of drinking water under the kitchen table! The Vet gave her a clean bill of health but said that the episode might put her off her food for a day or two—it had the same effect on me also!

I'm still chuckling about what happened to me on voting day—because of the gusty wind that was blowing I wore a hat to keep my hair under control and with my pearls 'n floral handbag 'n walking stick for balance 'n enough how-to-vote pamphlets to paper a bedroom wall, I finally made it inside the hall—with both hands full of handbag, walking stick, pamphlets, and now voting papers including the yard long senate ticket. I must have looked like a bewildered centenarian as I stood there wondering what my next move should be. Suddenly a kind official took my arm and guided me to a solitary booth at the back of the hall. He sat me down on the chair and left me in private to fill in my vote. Problem was that when seated I was below eye level with the booth and couldn't see the papers thereon.

As I tried to stand up the legs on the chair began slipping backwards on the slippery floorboards and so, as you would, I made a grab for the booth to steady myself and nearly brought the whole show down on top of me. I do remind myself of that lovely, haunting song 'Send in the clowns—don't bother, I'm here'.

The following is an old joke:

*Every body is born right handed
Only the gifted overcome it.*

Muriel Stuart

Minutes of General Meeting 2 Sept 2013

Presbyterian Church Hall, Bendooley St. Bowral

Present: 46 members and 10 visitors.

Apologies: Glenys Lilliendal, Janice Scott, Margie Stuart, Carole Smith, Lolita Godsell, Sharyn Murphy, Patricia Robinson, Sheila Beames, Desley Clifford

President Meg Probyn opened the meeting at 1.30 pm and welcomed everyone present especially new members and guests. She then introduced the guest speaker, Carolyn Dwyer, who took us on a journey to "Sofiero", Sweden's most romantic garden, and illuminated us with its fascinating history. In 1905 the King and Queen of Sweden gave their grandson Prince Gustaf (VI) Adolf and his bride Margareta of Connaught the seaside castle of "Sofiero" as a wedding gift. Margareta came from a family of garden enthusiasts and started to rebuild the garden. She died in 1920. Prince Gustaf eventually married again and with his second wife, Louise Mountbatten, collected and planted 10,000 rhododendrons.

Today garden lovers flock to "Sofiero" to enjoy the splendid array of rhododendrons, which are native to Asia, North America, Europe and Australia. Carolyn included a great deal of information about the horticulture of rhododendrons and answered questions from the audience. Only white, pale pink and creamy yellow have a perfume.



Carolyn Dwyer, Bob Bailey and Pat Keen

In August each year there is a garden festival at "Sofiero", Helsingborg, Sweden where you can enjoy a wonderful smorgasbord lunch and a tour of house with beautiful views into the garden of 15 acres. Carolyn highly recommends this fabulous garden as a "must see" on your overseas itinerary. Carolyn also suggested that we leave the story of our own garden with photos, for those that come after us.

Mention was made of the blue poppy the national flower of Bhutan. Meg will give a prize to the first club member to bring one to a meeting!

Keith Bailey thanked Carolyn on behalf of the Club and presented her with a gift of the "Bowral Rose" which celebrates the 150th anniversary of Moss Vale and Bowral and also celebrates the 50 years of the Bowral Garden Club.

Minutes of the general meeting held on 5 August 2013 were accepted. Moved: Margaret Buckland Seconded: Lorraine Stott.

Correspondence In:

- Garden Club of Australia 2014 calendar \$10.
- The Garden Clubs of Australia, quarterly bulletin.

- Leaflet from Anglican Retirement Villages.
- Highlands Garden Society, Camellia Show, Uniting Church Hall 14 September
- Better Homes and Gardens Live Sydney Show Ground 20-22 September
- Plant Fair – Central Coast 28-29 September
- "Gardening Australia" live 18-20 October, Horden Pavilion Sydney
- Galston Gardens open 18-20 October
- Bundanoon Garden Ramble 26-27 October

Correspondence Out: Nil

Treasurer's Report

Noelene Bailey moved that the financial report be accepted as follows: Balance in cheque account as at 31 August 2013 \$6456.37 plus balance in savings account \$3179.12: Total funds on hand as at 31 August 2013 \$9693.49. Seconded: Ray Bradley and carried.

General Business:

- **Tulip Time:** A meeting will be held at Eric and Phyllis' home 45 Highland Drive, Bowral on 9 September at 10.30 am. All those willing to take part should attend to discuss ideas on outfits to reflect the 1860s era.

On 28 September, the walkers will gather at 2.30pm in Bowral Street. Bring bunches of lavender tied with red ribbon to hand out. If not walking, please gather outside Gumnut or CBA bank to cheer us on. The judges for the Tulip Time parade will be stationed near the Springetts Arcade.

- **Bowral Rose** – Noelene Bailey advised we only have 9 roses left and can be picked up from her home. Please ring 4862 3741.
- **Trip to Canberra Arboretum** November 11: Please contact Catherine Mah (4861 7268) for your ticket (\$25).
- **Jazz Picnic 22 September:** Montrose Berry Farm 12 – 4 pm. A fund raising event for Margaret and Ross Alexander who have been taken to court by the mining company and who are now facing costs of \$200,000. Bring your own picnic and drinks. Afternoon tea is included in the \$25 ticket.
- **Camellia Show** Saturday 14 September Uniting Church Hall Bowral.

Trading Table: Doing very well with plants and marmalade jam being very popular.

Exhibition Lucky Draw: The names include those who have brought items for the Trading Table.

Drawn by Lorraine Stott. Winner Carol Scott.

Lucky Door Draw: Drawn by Pamela Bailey and won by Margaret Buckland.

The meeting closed at 3 pm followed by a delicious afternoon tea prepared by our Afternoon Tea Hosts.

Next Meeting: Monday 14 October at 1.30 pm. Guest speaker will be **Sandra Ross** "Inspirations of spring".

Open gardens in October for your diary

Some of the gardens open at Tulip Time are regularly open during the year but there are a few which are not always available to visitors. Those of you who are new to the area might like to check out the following during the weekend of 5-6 October:

- 'Retford Park', 1325 Old South Road, Bowral (open 10.00am to 4.00pm). Admission \$8 (Money raised goes to Open Gardens Australia and to Bowral District Arts Society).
- 'Greenbriar Park', Old South Road, Mittagong (also has a winery)

Other gardens open and worth visiting in spring are:

'Red Cow Farm', Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest

'5th Chapter Estate', 217 Walkers Lane, Avoca (unsealed road)

'Chinoiserie', 23 Webb Street, Mittagong

'Sturt' (with an art/craft gallery), Range Road, Mittagong

'Harper's Mansion', Wilkinson Street, Berrima

'Hillview' (the old State Governor's summer home), 7277 Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest

'Milton Park', Horderns Road, Bowral

'Moidart', Eridge Park Road, Bowral – the garden will be open as well as the nursery.

'Corbett Gardens' (worth a visit to check which tulips you would like to dig up in November community dig!)

Happy Birthday, Frank!



Frank Moore enjoying coffee with 18 club members at the Milk Factory, Bowral, on Monday 30 September. He will celebrate his 80th birthday on 12 October. Many Happy Returns!

Management Committee

President:	Meg Probyn	4871 3134
Vice-President:	Pam Bailey	4869 5117
Secretary:	Lorraine Richardson	4862 2677
Treasurer:	Noelene Bailey	4862 3741
Public Officer:	Eric Paananen	
Trading table:	Michael Launders	
Seed Box:	Barbara Wilson	

Membership and Front Desk:

Pat Keen, Catherine Mah, Janice Scott, Anne Stegman

Afternoon tea hosts:

Margaret Buckland, Wendy Gamble, Glenys Lilliendal, Doreen Plumridge

Website: bowralgardenclub.com